

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on September 15, 2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,471 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
2. Furthermore, applicant contends that the title of their invention is "Electronic Camera That Synthesizes Two Images Taken Under Different Exposures". However, it is clear from the specification that the title is actually "Electronic Camera". Further, no amendment changing the title of the application can be found in this application. As the Examiner has the authority to change the title, the Examiner has changed the title to the title which the applicant contends it already is. Thus, the title has been changed to "Electronic Camera That Synthesizes Two Images Taken Under Different Exposures".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 6, 7, and 30-52 (renumbered claims 1-25) are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
5. Regarding claim 6, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest means for causing said flash emission means to emit at both of the two shots of picture taking and setting charge accumulation time of the image pickup device at the second shot of picture taking based on an emission amount ratio of the two emissions measured by said photometric device.

6. With regard to claim 7, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest timing for stopping the smaller emission set as the same as the timing for the stopping of an electronic shutter operation of the image pickup device.

7. As for claim 30, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the total of the emission amounts at the two images is set equal to or lower than the total emission energy of the single charge storage means.

8. Regarding claim 31, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that a full emission of the flash storage means is caused at each of the shots by selectively using the plurality of charge storage means so as to make a difference in the total capacitance values to be used.

9. With regard to claim 32, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a plurality of charge storage means wherein the first charge storage means emits a smaller emission and the second charge storage means emits a larger emission under dimming control.

10. As for claim 33, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a plurality of charge storage means wherein the first charge storage means emits a smaller emission under dimming control and the second charge storage means emits a larger emission.

11. Regarding claim 34, the primary reason for allowance is that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest at least one charge storage means wherein the first charge storage means emits a smaller emission and the second charge storage means emits a larger emission both performed under dimming control.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN M. VILLECCO whose telephone number is (571)272-7319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JOHN M. VILLECCO/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622
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